

CLASSIFICATION

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

TOPIC Finow Airfield

25X1A

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 27 July to 30 August 1953

DATE OBTAINED TE PREPARED 24 September 1953

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REFERENCES

PAGES 6 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Finow airfield between 27 July and 30 August 1953:

27 July.

At 6:15 a.m., an air raid siren was sounded at the field. Thereupon at least 50 MiG-15s continuously took off and landed between 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.

28 July. Between 8 p.m. and midnight, a MiG-15 flew in circle over the field towing an air sleeve, which was in the beam of searchlights, which was attacked by another MiG-15. At the same time, part of the personnel stationed at the field took up positions on the airfield boundaries apparently for an exercise designed to test the defense of the field against attacking troops.

31 July. Between 6 p.m. and midnight, MiG-15s practiced take-offs and landings.

2 August. There was no flying.

8 August. Sixty to 70 aircraft, most of which were MiG-15s, were parked at the northern edge of the field. At the same time 4 MiG-15s and a radio truck were parked along the eastern edges of the field.

9 August. At 10 a.m., about 350 air force men and a military band were lined up east of the Finow-Biesenthal road, while an officer was making a speech, probably in connection with the Soviet Air Force Day.

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27 August. Between 9 p.m. and midnight, there was air activity by MiG-15s, which included practice firing at an air sleeve. The sleeve target was towed by a MiG-15 and was caught in the beams of two searchlights.

30 August. No flying was observed during the daytime. Sixty to 70 MiG-15s were parked at the northern edge of the field. The aircraft of the alert flight [redacted]

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2. On 8 August, several semi-underground temporary wooden buildings, each 8 x 5 x 2 meters, were observed in the bomb dump just west of the Finow-Biesenthal road and south of the railroad line. Previously, about 12 stacks of bombs had been observed there. ²
 3. Two radio installations located in wooden buildings were observed side-by-side on the former Spechthausener Strasse in Finowfurt. About 150 meters north of kilometer marker 6.6 on the Finow-Finowfurt road a concrete bunker housing a signal or radio installation was observed in the open field. From the bunker, a line extended to the Finowfurt post office. A headquarters probably belonging to the airfield was housed in the former Finowfurt estate. ³ On 23 and 30 August, the AA gun emplacement near kilometer marker 1.3 just west of the Finow-Biesenthal road was vacated. The underground bunkers of the emplacement were empty. ⁴

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4. [redacted]

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- [redacted] 5. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at the field between 1 and 23 August:

1 August. Between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., MiG-15s made about 10 flights in elements of twos. Visibility was good.

2 August. There was no flying during the daytime. Between 10 p.m. and 2:30 a.m., the noise of flying jet fighters was heard. There was a 10/10 overcast and good visibility.

3 August. Between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s practiced flying in formations of twos and fours. The weather was hazy. Between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., 2 MiG-15s were parked at the eastern end of the runway, 4 MiG-15s at the site of the alert flight and about 15 MiG-15s and 4 Yak-11s at the northern edge of the field. It was probably that a part of the aircraft were temporarily at another airfield. [redacted]

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4 August. In the morning, only 2 biplanes coming from the northern airfield were seen aloft over Finow. Between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., one formation of 11 and one of 10 MiG-15s was observed aloft over the field.

5 and 6 August. Between 3 a.m. and 8 p.m., about 20 MiG-15s practiced flying in formations of twos and fours. The weather was hazy.

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7 August. Between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m., 2 Yak-11s made individual flights and MiG-15s were observed in formations of fours. At 5:30 p.m., 25 MiG-15s took off, assembled in formation and headed in a northwesterly direction. As of 7 p.m. the formation had not yet returned to the field.

8 August. Between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., there was intensive air activity by MiG-15s flying in formations of twos and fours. At 12:30 p.m., 31 MiG-15s were parked at the eastern end of the runway. 4 MiG-15s at the site of the alert flight and about 12 MiG-15s and 6 Yak-11s at the norther edge of the field. At the same time MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were observed aloft. [redacted]
A railroad car loaded with stone chippings was observed on the spur track at the eastern edge of the field and was being unloaded by air force soldiers.

10 August. Between 8 p.m. and midnight, about 10 MiG-15s with position lights burning practiced formation flying in elements of twos.

11 August. There was intensive air activity by MiG-15s. Formations of twos and fours were seen. The weather was fair.

12 August. Between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., MiG-15s made about 100 flights in formations of twos and fours. Weather was fair and visibility good.

13 August. Between 2 a.m. and 9 a.m., night flying was conducted by biplanes from Finow-Nord airfield. Between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., MiG-15s made individual local flights and formation flights in flights of two.

14 August. MiG-15s practiced flying as on the preceding day. Two Yak-11s made a formation flight.

15 August. In the morning, 6 biplanes from Finow-Nord airfield practiced flying.

16 August. At 5:30 p.m., about 45 MiG-15s and 10 Yak-11s were observed at the northern edge of the field, while 4 MiG-15s [redacted] were parked at the site of the alert flight.

23 to 28 August. Three days during this period formation flights by two and four MiG-15s were observed. On one night between 23 and 28 August there was flying which included practice firing by jet fighters at an air sleeve being towed in the beams of searchlights. 2

6. During the reported period, the AA gun emplacement in the southeastern corner of the field was camouflaged by bushes so that no guns could be observed. Some soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets were seen at the emplacement. 4
7. After 22 August, many officers and EM were seen in the restaurants and on the streets of Finow.

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9. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at the field between 1 and 28 August:

1 August. At 2 p.m., 50 to 60 MiG-15s were observed at the field from its eastern edge. There was no flying. Weather was 5/10 overcast and visibility moderate.

6 August. At 2 p.m., 52 MiG-15s were counted at the field.

15 and 17 August. About 60 MiG-15s and 6 Po-2s were parked at the field.

21 August. After 9:30 p.m., there was firing at an air sleeve with tracer ammunition by MiG-15s. The sleeve target was being towed by a conventional type aircraft. The Finow-Biesenthal road was blocked during firing practices.

25 August. At noon, no air activity was observed. About 7 p.m., two trucks towing searchlights moved to the western portion of the landing field. Subsequently local night flying was conducted by MiG-15s with the searchlights being in operation.

28 August. At 2 a.m., firing at an air sleeve was practiced by MiG-15s. 1

10. In the extension of the runway, at a point about 300 meters east of the Finow-Biesenthal road, source saw a wooden cabin with a lamp facing toward the east. Lines led to the cabin. 3

11. On 15 and 17 August, about 30 soldiers were doing construction work on five aircraft revetments in the northeastern and southeastern corners of the field. The aircraft revetments which faced the runway consisted of earth walls about 4 meters high. 6

12. Just east of the Finow-Biesenthal road, a spur track, about 2 km long, led along National Highway No 2 into an area about 500 meters long. This area was surrounded by a board fence and was guarded by air force personnel which also occupied a watch tower seen there. 2

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14. On 4 August, about 40 MiG-15s, coming in for a landing from the direction of Finow, were observed at Eberswalde.

15. During the first half of August, intensive air activity by swept-back jet fighters was observed at Freienwalde. On 12 August, four formations of four jet fighters each were seen aloft at a low altitude over the town. The aircraft headed toward Finow. 1

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2.

Comment. This information refers to the ammunition dump located northeast of the field, near the road to Biesenthal between the town of Finow and the airfield. This installation has been reported previously.

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3.

Comment. The radio installations in Finowfurth on the road to Finow are reported for the first time. The installation east of the runway is probably an inner low frequency beacon.

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Comment. According to previous information, the AA gun emplacement consists of six 37-mm AA guns.

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6.

Comment. Thirty to 35 aircraft revetments are believed to be available at Finow airfield.

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